AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph [0006] beginning on page 3, as follows:

[0006] The second navigation device is structured such that a user may start driving to a destination as the second navigation device displays the directional name button. Also, the user may gradually approach the ~~his/her~~ destination as the user presses a sequence of directional name buttons one at a time. However, the second navigation device requires the user to press the sequence of directional name buttons correctly until the user arrives at the destination, which is to say that the user needs to be aware of an effective route to the destination beforehand, otherwise the second navigation device is not able to provide the user with a shortest and a quickest route to the destination. Furthermore, when the user needs guidance from the second navigation device in a place unfamiliar to the user, it is highly likely that the user chooses a wrong direction, thus the second navigation device is not operable to provide the user with appropriate guidance. As is clear from the above, the second navigation device is problematic in that the second navigation device may provide the user with inappropriate guidance.

Please amend the paragraph [0008] beginning on page 4, as follows:

[0008] In order to achieve the above-mentioned object, a first aspect of the present invention is directed to a navigation device, wherein the navigation device comprises an area input section for a user to input a name of a first ~~an~~ area which neighbors a destination of the user, an area specifying section for specifying, by using map data, a second area, which is selected from among the first area whose name is inputted in the area input section, and used for a route search, a route search section for searching for a route leading to the second area specified in the area specifying section, a first guidance section for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found by the route search section, so as to guide the user to the second area specified in the area specifying section, a destination specifying section for specifying the destination by exchanging a dialogue with the user after the first guidance section starts providing the user with the guidance, a route selecting section for selecting a route leading to the destination specified in the destination specifying section, and a second guidance section for providing the user with guidance in accordance with the route selected by the route

selecting section so as to guide the user to the destination specified by the destination specifying section. ~~a route searching section for searching for a route which leads the user to the area whose name is inputted in the area input section, a first guidance section for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found in the route searching section, so as to guide the user to the area whose name is inputted in the area input section, a destination specifying section for specifying, by exchanging a dialogue with the user, the destination of the user after the guidance by the first guidance section starts, a route selecting section for selecting a route to the destination specified in the destination specifying section, and a second guidance section for providing the user with guidance so as to guide the user to the destination specified in the destination specifying section.~~

Please amend the paragraph [0009] beginning on page 5, as follows:

[0009] The destination specifying section preferably includes a question output section for generating and outputting a question to which the user responds by selecting only one of two options offered by the question, and a response input section for the user to input therein a ~~his/her~~ response corresponding ~~with respect~~ to the question outputted ~~asked~~ by the question output section. The destination specifying section specifies the destination in accordance with the response inputted by the user in the response input section.

Please amend the paragraph [0011] beginning on page 5, as follows:

[0011] Also, preferably, the question outputted by the question output section, and the response inputted ~~by the user~~ into the response input section are in audio.

Please amend the paragraph [0012] beginning on page 5, as follows:

[0012] Also, preferably, when a destination is not specified, the destination specifying section sets, after deriving a current position of the user, a temporary destination based on the area whose name is inputted in the area input section and the current position which is derived by the destination specifying section, and ~~. In such case,~~ the route selecting

section selects a route connecting the current position to the temporary destination which is set by the destination specifying section.

Please amend the paragraph [0013] beginning on page 6, as follows:

[0013] Also~~,~~ when ~~there is~~ a plurality of representative positions are pre-assigned to the first area whose name is inputted in the area input section, the destination specifying section ~~preferably~~ selects, as a temporary destination, from among the plurality of ~~a~~ representative positions a representative position nearest to a ~~the~~ current position of the user derived by the destination specifying section~~, which is derived by the destination specifying section, as a temporary destination~~.

Please amend the paragraph [0015] beginning on page 6, as follows:

[0015] Also~~,~~ when there is a plurality of representative positions pre-assigned to the first area whose name is inputted in the area input section, the route search~~ing~~ section searches for a route for each of the representative positions which are set in the first area whose name is inputted in the area input section, the ~~. The~~ first guidance section provides the user with the guidance in accordance with each route found by the route search~~ing~~ section, the~~. The~~ destination specifying section specifies one of the representative positions, which are set in the first area ~~whose name is~~ inputted in the area input section, as a ~~the~~ destination of the user, and the ~~. The~~ route selecting section selects from among the plurality of routes found by the route searching section one route which ~~that~~ leads the user to the destination specified by the destination specifying section.

Please amend the paragraph [0016] beginning on page 6, as follows:

[0016] Also, the destination specifying section includes a spot setting section for setting a spot, the spot is determined by backing up toward the user as much as a predetermined distance from an end spot of an overlapping portion between the plurality of routes found by the route search~~ing~~ section, as a spot to output a question, a question output section for outputting to the user a question at the spot set by the spot setting section, and a response input section for the user to input a ~~his/her~~ response to the question outputted by the question output section, the ~~. The~~ destination specifying section specifies a ~~the~~

destination of the user in accordance with the response inputted in the response input section.

Please amend the paragraph [0017] beginning on page 7, as follows:

[0017] Also the ~~, a~~ second aspect of the present invention is directed to a navigation method, which ~~wherein the navigation method~~ comprises an area acquisition step for acquiring in accordance with an input inputted by a user a name of a first ~~an~~ area which neighbors a destination of the user, an area specifying step for specifying, by using map data, a second area, which is selected from the first area whose name is inputted in the area input step, and used for a route search, a route searching step for searching for a route leading to the second area specified in the area specifying step, a first guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found by the route searching step, so as to guide the user to the second area specified in the area specifying step, a destination specifying step for specifying the destination by exchanging a dialogue with the user after the first guidance step starts providing the user with the guidance, a route selecting step for selecting a route leading to the destination specified in the destination specifying step, and a second guidance step for providing the user with guidance in accordance with the route selected by the route selecting step so as to guide the user to the destination specified by the destination specifying step. ~~a route searching step for searching for a route which leads the user to the area whose name is inputted in the area acquisition step, a first guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found in the route searching step, so as to guide the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step, a destination specifying step for specifying, by exchanging a dialogue with the user, a destination of the user after the guidance by the first guidance step starts, a route selecting step for selecting a route to the destination which is specified in the destination specifying step, and a second guidance step for providing the user with guidance so as to guide the user to the destination specified in the destination specifying step.~~

Please amend the paragraph [0018] beginning on page 8, as follows:

[0018] Also, the third aspect of the present invention is directed to a computer program for providing the user with guidance so as to guide the user to a ~~his/her~~ destination, wherein the computer program comprises an area acquisition step for acquiring, in accordance with an input inputted by a user, a name of an area which neighbors a destination of the user, an area specifying step for specifying, by using map data, a second area, which is selected from among the first area whose name is inputted in the area input step, and used for a route search, a route searching step for searching for a route leading to the second area specified in the area specifying step, a first guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found by the route searching step, so as to guide the user to the second area specified in the area specifying step, a destination specifying step for specifying the destination by exchanging a dialogue with the user after the first guidance step starts providing the user with the guidance, a route selecting step for selecting a route leading to the destination specified in the destination specifying step, and a second guidance step for providing the user with guidance in accordance with the route selected by the route selecting step so as to guide the user to the destination specified by the destination specifying step.~~a route searching step for searching for a route which leads the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step, a first guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route found in the route searching step, so as to guide the user to the area whose name is acquired in the area acquisition step, a destination specifying step for specifying, by exchanging a dialogue with the user, a destination of the user after the guidance by the first guidance step starts, a route selecting step for selecting a route to the destination specified in the destination specifying step, and a second guidance step for providing the user with guidance, in accordance with the route selected in the route selecting step, so as to guide the user to the destination specified in the destination specifying step.~~

Please amend the paragraph [0022] beginning on page 10, as follows:

[0022] [FIG. 1] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a functional configuration of a navigation device according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[FIG. 2] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a hardware platform for the navigation device shown in FIG. 1.

[FIG. 3] FIG. 3 is a diagram schematically showing a data structure of a placename database of a map storage section 2 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.

[FIG. 4] FIG. 4 is a diagram schematically showing a data structure of a genre database of the map storage section 2 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.

[FIG. 5] FIG. 5 is a diagram schematically showing a logical data structure of an example of substitution of map information which includes both databases shown in FIGS. ~~4 and 5~~ 3 and 4.

[FIG. 6] FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing a procedure performed by the present navigation device.

[FIG. 7] FIG. 7 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S105 shown in FIG. 6.

[FIG. 8] FIG. 8 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S205 shown in FIG. 7.

[FIG. 9] FIG. 9 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S209 shown in FIG. 7.

[FIG. 10] FIG. 10 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S214 shown in FIG. 7.

[FIG. 11] FIG. 11 is a diagram schematically showing a temporary destination which is set in a step S506 shown in FIG. 10.

[FIG. 12] FIG. 12 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S507 shown in FIG. 10.

[FIG. 13] FIG. 13 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S508 shown in FIG. 10

[FIG. 14] FIG. 14 is a block diagram showing a functional configuration of a navigation device according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

[FIG. 15] FIG. 15 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a hardware platform for the navigation device shown in FIG. 14.

[FIG. 16] FIG. 16 is a main flowchart showing a procedure performed by an arithmetic processing section 7 shown in FIGS. 14 and 15.

[FIG. 17] FIG. 17 is a diagram schematically showing a content of procedure performed by the arithmetic processing section 7 shown in FIGS. 14 and 15.

[FIG. 18] FIG. 18 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S805 shown in FIG. 16.

[FIG. 19] FIG. 19 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S808 shown in FIG. 16.

[FIG. 20] FIG. 20 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in a step S812 shown in FIG. 16.

Please amend the paragraph [0042] beginning on page 21, as follows:

[0042] After the power of the navigation device is turned on, the arithmetic processing section 4 (namely, the CPU 45) determines whether or not to proceed with a navigation process (step S102). To be more specific, the arithmetic processing section 4 causes the information output section 5 to ask the user, by outputting a speech or an image, whether or not the user wishes to use the present navigation device. To be more specific, a speech or an image which asks the user "Would you like guidance to your destination?" is outputted. When the user inputs his/her response, the information input section 1 outputs to the arithmetic processing section 4 an electric signal (hereinafter, referred to as a response signal) indicating the response. When the response signal received from the information input section 1 indicates "No", the arithmetic processing section 4 determines, in the step S102, not to proceed with the procedure shown in FIG. ~~5~~ 6, and ends the procedure. On the other hand, when the response signal indicates "Yes", the arithmetic processing section 4 causes the information output section 5 to output a speech or an image to ask the user for an input of his/her destination (step S103). To be more specific, the information output section 5 outputs a speech or an image which says "Please input your destination". Here, since it is conceivable that the user has already started driving after the step S101, a preferable speech or image says to the user "Please voice input your destination", in the step S103.

Please amend the paragraph [0134] beginning on page 54, as follows:

[0134] Then, the arithmetic processing section 7 determines whether or not it is possible to exchange a dialogue with the user (step S808). FIG. 19 is a flowchart showing a detailed procedure performed in the step S808 shown in FIG. 16. In FIG. 19, the arithmetic processing section 7 acquires a current position of the vehicle (step S1001), and specifies a Pt (see end points Pt1 and Pt2 exemplarily shown in FIG. ~~16~~ 17), which is an end point, which the vehicle is to pass, of the overlapping portion of the routes used for the ongoing guidance information (step S1002).